

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 16-25, 27, 28, 31, 34-37, 39-41 and 43-47 are pending. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 16-25, 27, 28, 31, 34-37, 39-41 and 43-47 have been rejected. No claims have been allowed. Claims 1, 8, 11, 21, 31, 36 and 41 have been amended. Claims 20, 23-25, and 27-28 have been canceled. No claims have been added herein.

I. Interview Summary

Examiner Brown is hereby acknowledged and thanked for the courtesy extended during the personal interview on September 25, 2007, at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, between the Examiner, Keith Moore, Craig Paulsen and the undersigned attorney. The pending claims, Final Office Action and prior art references of record, including Mattice, Bacchiaz and Rowe, were all discussed during this personal interview, with particular focus on claim 1, as well as that which is clearly taught by the prior art of record. Agreement was not reached with respect to the patentability of the pending claims, and it was suggested that further amendments be made to the claims, which amendments have been made to all independent claims herein.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 11-14, 16, 20, 24-25, and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application Publication No. EP1157906 to Bacchiaz, et al. (“Bacchiaz”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In so traversing, Applicants incorporate by reference the remarks made in Applicants’ prior Response of April 10, 2007. In particular, the pending claims already specified in some manner that the respective gaming machine or device have multiple locks and multiple secured

regions, and that access is provided to the different secured regions via the respective locks by using the same mechanical key. Bacchiaz does not teach or reasonably suggest such an arrangement, such that the pending § 102 rejections fail for at least this reason.

Nevertheless, Applicants have agreed to amend the pending claims in order to further the overall prosecution of the pending application. In particular, all pending claims now recite a gaming machine having at least two separate key accessible regions or environments, each of which accepts the same mechanical key, and wherein one accessible region or environment is a door of the gaming machine and another is a separate or further region or environment at the gaming machine. In particular, various claims require such a second region or environment to be a bill storage area, a CPU box or a coin drop box. Support for such added limitations can be found at, for example, paragraphs [0031]-[0033] and [0064] of the specification as filed.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the recited prior art references alone or in combination teaches such particular arrangements, such that all pending claims as amended are patentable over the prior art of record.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6, 31-32, 34-37, 39, 41 and 43-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020142831 to Mattice, et al. (“Mattice”) in view of Bacchiaz, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,116,597 to Rowe et al. (“Rowe”). Claims 7-8 and 40 stand rejected as being unpatentable over the above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,709,333 to Bradford, et al. (“Bradford”). Claim 9 stands rejected as being unpatentable over the above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,374,653 to Gokcebay, et al. (“Gokcebay”). Claims 11-14, 16, 20, 23-25 and 27-28 stand rejected as being

unpatentable over Bacchiaz in view of Rowe. Claims 17-18 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Bacchiaz, Rowe, and further in view of Bradford. Claims 19 and 21-22 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Bacchiaz, Rowe, Bradford, and further in view of Gokcebay.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Nevertheless, Applicants have agreed to amend the pending claims in order to further the overall prosecution of the pending application, with a general description of such amendments being provided above. In order to render a claim as obvious, a combination of references must teach or suggest every material element of that claim. All independent claims have been amended herein to require a gaming machine having multiple locks and multiple secured regions (or environments), that access is provided to the different secured regions via the respective locks, and that specific gaming machine regions, such as a door, are accessible via such locks, and that the same key is used to access all such multiple locks and secured regions. Additional claim limitations include the specific recitation of a main door, a belly door, a bill storage area, a CPU box and/or a coin drop box of a respective gaming machine that serve as such secured regions or environments. It is respectfully submitted that none of the recited prior art references alone or in combination teaches such arrangements, such that the present claims as amended are patentable over the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in proper form and condition for patentability, and request a Notification of Allowance to that effect. Consideration for an RCE fee is being submitted herewith. Should such consideration be inadvertently omitted, and/or should any other fee be required for any reason related to this document or application, however, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No.50-0388, referencing Docket No. IGT1P102. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below with any questions or concerns relating to this document or application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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